

BMHA Newsletter

BICYCLE MOBILE HAMS OF AMERICA



Volume 9, Number 2

Apr/May/June 1998

DAYTON '98

Ninth Annual BMHA Forum Program at HamVention

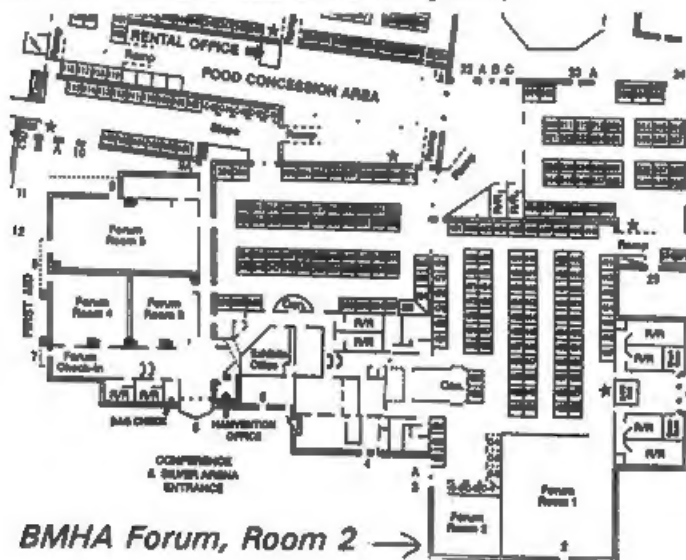
Our Forum at HamVention continues to be the annual gathering of BMHA members for the purpose of getting new ideas, renewing old acquaintances, and making new friends.

Date: Sunday, May 17, 1998

Time: 08:15 to 09:45

Location: Room 2

(Note! The location is different from last year's.)



The Program:

08:15 - 08:45 Welcome, announcements, informal session.

08:45 - 09:05 "Organizing A Bike Event—The Easy Way"

—Mark Campbell, KE0KC

09:05 - 09:25 "Mountain Bike Becomes Super Ham Station"

—Scott Farrell, KE4WMF

09:25 - 09:45 Question and Answer Session.

Moderated by Chris Charron, KOPE

Moderator Chris Charron, KOPE, has assembled a very interesting team of speakers. Chris says: "Mark Campbell, KE0KC, works as Iowa's representative on the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau. This is a federally funded program that administers Seat Belt, Helmet, and DWI programs. Mark's also a liaison for helping organize bike rides. I've asked Mark to talk about how you should go about seeking

help from your local government contacts when you're organizing a new ride, or expanding a current ride.

Our second speaker is Scott Farrell, KE4WMF, whose main duty as a US Coast Guardsman is the teaching of communication skills. Scott will have on hand his mountain bicycle, with all of it's radio gear—the same bike that was featured in the Feb. '98 *CQ-VHF* magazine. You'll remember Scott's article "Mountain Bike Becomes Super Ham Station" in the BMHA Newsletter, Oct. '97. Scott will deal with all the ins and outs of setting up ham gear on your bike.

Special Note: The two BMHA booklets titled *Radio Operator's Guidebook* and *Tour Leader's Guidebook* will be on sale at the Forum for \$2 each. These booklets, by Dave Gerbig, WB9MZZ, tell how ham operators can provide communication support for bicycle events.

Immediately after the Forum we'll move en masse to the Food Concession Area (see diagram this page) for coffee and an informal get-together.

BMHA's Seventh Annual Bike Ride

Saturday May 16, 1998

Tipp City Park

Tipp City, Ohio

Start Time: see below

If you're planning to be at the Dayton Hamvention this year, plan on coming to the BMHA ride. This year's ride will again start from the park in Tipp City, Ohio, about 15 miles north of the Hamvention. You can bring your bike and go on the ride—or you can bring a QRP rig, throw a wire up in a tree, and maybe set up a BMHA special event station, or just picnic in the park—your choice! It's a great chance to meet your fellow BMHAers and check out some of their bike-mounted rigs.

The start time will probably be around 3 PM (although if any conflicting HamVention events come up, it might change—see below). We've got excellent low-traffic roads and flat-to-gently-rolling terrain. We're planning a 27-mile ride with a short refreshment stop midway. Depending on the number of riders and their preferences, we might also have an additional, shorter ride. Further details (along with some photos of last year's ride) will be available on the internet at www.infinet.com/~otown/BMHA.htm

If you are interested, send an SASE to: BMHA Bike Tour, 419 South Third St., Tipp City, OH 45371-1727, or an e-mail to: otown@infinet.com. Additional details and directions will be forwarded. See you there!

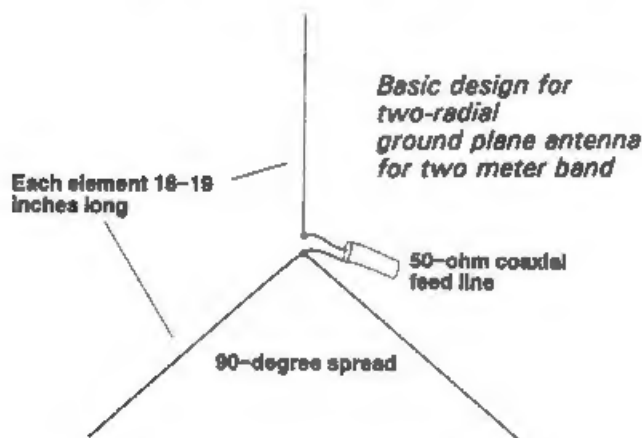
—Jim Gumbert, NC8Y

GETTING STARTED

Column conducted by Bill Paul, KD6JUI

How to Make a Simple Ground-Plane Antenna

Ground plane antennas put out a good signal to the horizon, which is just what we want. Using principles that appeared in the BMHA newsletter of Oct/Nov/Dec. '95, here is a simple ground-plane antenna for the two meter band which I want to try on my Fiberglass rod support system sometime.



Looking at the drawing, create one 18- or 19-inch vertical element out of thick copper wire which attaches to the center conductor of your coaxial transmission line. The braid part of the coaxial line attaches to two 18- or 19-inch, 45-degree slope radials placed opposite each other and electrically connected.

You'll have to work out the mechanical details---but remember, the vertical element and the two radials must be insulated from each other. It's a very simple antenna, and a good match to your 50-ohm coaxial line. You might raise the center of the antenna three feet off the back of the bike and install an in-line coaxial connector to make it truly a quick-release antenna. If you try this antenna, tell me how it performs. It would be fun to run a test comparison between it and a J-pole antenna.

I know a ham who's going to mount a rubber duckie antenna on top of his bike helmet and use that as his bike antenna. Hmmm.

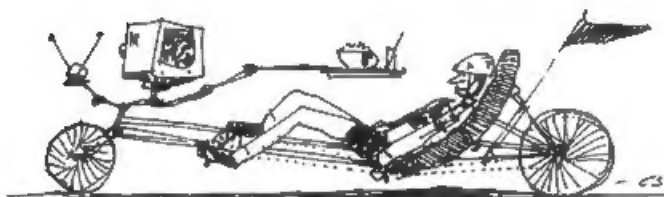
That's it for now. Please write me with questions you may have about Getting Started in the fun world of bicycle ham radio.

—Bill Paul KD6JUI

337 Estrella Way

San Mateo CA 94403-2940

bbp@alchemist-light.com



—ADVENTURE CYCLING

EVENTS

Alaska Tour Update

Here's latest from Chuck and Lynn Dick, leaders of the '98 Alaska Highway Bicycle Tour, June 3 to July 2:

"We have reached the maximum number of participants for a successful tour---26 cyclists, plus our sagwagon driver and his wife, who will be driving their motorhome. We have riders from Georgia, Arizona, Ohio, Washington State, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. There will be five BMHA members: Ned Mountain, WC4X, Cathy Crandall, AA7GX, George Mortimer, and Chuck and myself. Ned will be riding fully equipped with HF radio on his bike. Thanks once again for plugging our tour in the Newsletter. 73!"

---Chuck Dick, VE7MHA, and Lynn Dick, VE7MGK

Phone: 604 261 5092 Email: chucklyn@interchg.ubc.ca

(For more info on this tour see newsletter, Jan. '98 ---Ed.)

Your Chance to QSO with Ned on Alaska Highway!

Thanks to BMHA Newsletter, and a very understanding XYZ, I'll be riding the first half of the Alaska Highway Tour. I will be HF-radio-equipped on the leg from Fairbanks Alaska to Whitehorse, and look forward to contacts with other BMHA members. June 5 thru June 15 are my actual biking days.

I'll be active on 40, 20, 17, and 15M during "prime pedaling hours". 17M is my favorite band from the bike. If anybody wants to look for my signal, let's set the time of 1900 and 2300Z each day on or about 18.140 MHz. If 17 is open, more than likely I will stick to that band most of the time. I'll be running either 2 watts or 10 watts, depending on whether or not I feel like lugging the big battery and the "linear". Members, let's QSO!

—Ned Mountain, WC4X Email: nedms@compuserve.com

Two Weeks of Superb Cycling in Canada

BMHA members Steve and Mimi Bell (N1XAV and N1VOT) are leading two weeks of bicycle touring in Quebec and Nova Scotia. Here's the scoop:

MOOSA TOUR---AUGUST 1-7

Ride through the wilderness of western Maine and southeastern Quebec to Quebec City, the oldest walled city in North America. Spend another three days enjoying the French ambiance of fine restaurants and shops, and a variety of loop rides. You'll have several rides to pick from, such as a century on the St Lawrence shore or a loop around the Ile d'Orleans---you choose the mileage and destination that's right for you.

LIGHTHOUSE TOUR---AUGUST 9-15

Explore the dramatic coast, unspoiled fishing villages, and friendly people of Nova Scotia. Spend time on the Evangeline and Lighthouse Trails as you experience some of the best cycling anywhere. Rider limit: 200. Fully supported. Join us for one or two weeks of a most unusual vacation.

Contact:

CAN-AM Wheelers, 140 Emerson Rd, Norway, ME 04268

207-743-9018 moosa@megalink.net www.megalink/~moosa

(Note: My wife Jean, NOEOX, and I spent three weeks bicycle-touring Nova Scotia back in the 70's. We loved it. ---Ed.)

NOTEPAD

BMHA is on a Roll!

In the previous issue we bragged about adding eight new members, which we thought was terrific—it being twice as many as we had added in the issue before that. But this time we are listing *twenty* new members! This surge can be traced directly to these reasons: We now regularly run classified ads in *QST* and *WORLD RADIO*; we get listed in the publications of LAB (the League of American Bicyclists) and Adventure Cycling; our members continue to send prospective members to us; and finally, *CQ-VHF* magazine is giving our members and BMHA tremendous amounts of ink.

The February '98 issue of *CQ-VHF* has a four-page story by member Scott Farrell, KE4WMF, titled "Riding the Airwaves", that tells how he set up his bike-mobile Super Ham Station.

In the current (April) issue of *CQ-VHF*, our own Skip LaPetra, AA6WK, is featured in a four-page article in which Skip deals with the benefits of combining his two favorite hobbies: cycling and ham radio. In addition, in the same magazine, there's a five-page Public Service column that devotes a lot of coverage to BMHA and how our members provide communication for the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA), Tour de Cure, and the Hilly Hundred. Both these issues make prominent mention of BMHA and how their readers can contact us for membership info and a sample copy of the *BMHA NewsLetter*.

We owe this national publicity to our Email friend and honorary member, Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, who writes the Public Interest column for *CQ-VHF*. This magazine is a new, (in its third year), sister publication of *CQ* magazine. It offers a lively coverage of the segment of hamming that concerns all our members: the bands above 50 MHz. Get a copy—you'll find it well worth reading.

Joe's 70+ Team Goes for RAAM Record—Again!

You'll remember that in '96 Joe Walker, KF6ORA, led a team of 70-yr-olds in a record-setting bike ride across the US. (See p.1, Jan. '97 *BMHA NewsLetter*.) The next edition of the *Guinness Book of Records* will list their record:

OLDEST TEAM TO HAVE CROSSED AMERICA
2905 MI/4630 KM IN 9 DAYS, 2 HOURS, 27 MINUTES

Joe writes: "HERE WE GO AGAIN! Your support in our previous two rides was a big help. Again, we need volunteers."

Our 70 PLUS Team of four bicycle riders desperately needs three ham volunteers to help us operate our net control, as there will be four vans and a motorhome which must remain in constant radio contact over a 100-mile area.

In addition, we need four committed volunteer crew members for rider support in this August '98 race from Irvine, CA to Savannah, GA. Min. req'mts: sense of humor, team

player, not inclined to suffer sleep deprivation, talent for cleanliness. If you are in good health and avail. for 2 wks of irrational behavior, contact me ASAP."

Joe Walker, KF6ORA

Box 17867, Encino, CA 91416-7867

E-mail: JJWFPMC@aol.com FAX: (818) 774-9023,

Bits and Pieces

While skimming thru the April '98 *QST*, I thought I saw a familiar face on page 184. It turned out to be BMHAer Bill Sharp, W8HI. Get a load of the special lid he's wearing!

Bob Murdock has upgraded from Tech to Advanced. His new call is WX2NJ. Guess where he lives? New Jersey! Good going, Bob.

Ned Mountain, WC4X, is going to be looking for YOU! See page 2, EVENTS. Making contacts with Ned when he's bike-mobile on the Alaska Highway establishes us as a real radio club. Let's get on the air and talk to Ned! We'll have to try to get more of this going in the future. Send in your ideas.

Writers Wanted!

We always need manuscripts on these subjects:

Antennas. Our readers have shown more interest in this department than any other. Antenna homebrewers, please notice.

Travel and Adventure. Always looking for stories about long (or short) bike trips. Especially, instances where ham radio took care of much-needed emergency communication; instances where local hams offered overnight accommodations or helped you out of a tight spot; cycling trips in foreign countries.

About a third of the article should deal with how (and what) ham radio was used on the trip.

If you'd like to write on any of these topics, send me a brief outline. Or just sit down and bat it out and send in the completed article. Send it on a disc or through E-mail (hartleya@aol.com) and our editorial staff will love you!

If you tell us your bike tour plans we'll publish them in the NewsLetter and help make it possible for you to meet fellow BMHAers in person or on radio as you pedal along. Just send in your route and the dates.

—Hartley Alley, NAOA, Editor Email: hartleya@aol.com

BMHA Net....on 20

TIME: 2000 UTC and four hours later at 0000 UTC.

DATE: 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

FREQ: 14.253 — plus or minus the QRM.

Look for me, NF0N, at those times, and if I'm unable to call the net please look for those who have picked up the net when I've been out of town. In particular, look for Assistant Net Control John Liebenrood, K7RO. John covers the West, and I cover the middle.

Special Note: Plans are being made to start a second BMHA Net which will be primarily CW and QRP on 40 meters. More in next issue.

—Mike Nickolaus, NF0N, BMHA Net Control
316 E. 32nd St., S. Sioux City, NE 68776

LETTER

397 Miles in a Day Not Easy!

Editors,

After you saw my BMHA questionnaire you asked me to tell you more about my 397-mile ride. Actually, it was a 24-hour no-drafting race. I noticed in one of the newsletters that we're fortunate to have a member that has competed in Team RAAM. (RAAM stands for Race Across America. In 1996, member Joe Walker, KF6ORA, of Encino, CA led a four-man team, all over age 70, in a record-setting RAAM. See BMHA Newsletter Jan. '97.) I've not done a RAAM, but I've done a 23-day PAC Tour across the US. That was in 1995.

Five days after the PAC tour ended, I competed in the 24 hour "Ironbutt" time trial (no drafting allowed) near Waco, TX. Having just completed the trans-continental tour, there was quite a bit of pain associated with racing for 24 hours. I've done these events before, but I'm usually a little more rested. About 14 hours into the race, about 10 pm, I was ready to quit. However, the race official's van pulled up along side me (I was still riding) and informed me that I was in first place. So much for quitting. After ten more hours, I rode 397 miles, but finished up in second place, about 7 miles behind the winner.

This year, I won the same event. My mileage was lower (374), the conditions were horrible (strong winds and intermittent showers). I think it was more of a mental contest this year than a physical one. Since the event is held on a 20-mile loop, it would really be ideal to use ham radio to keep in contact with my support crew stationed at the start/finish line. However, they're not hams. Since one attempts to be aerodynamic and lightweight, I wouldn't want anything more on the bike than an HT with a short antenna.

These events are usually held on a 15- to 20-mile loop. You don't need road support (in fact, it's usually not allowed), and you get whatever you need every time you cross the start/finish line. Mileage is tracked through a system where each rider throws a token into a hopper after each lap.

On the 24-hour events, you can stop and sleep if you want, but you won't be in contention to win if you do. I don't. However, one year I did fall asleep involuntarily. I didn't think one could do this while pedaling, but trust me, it happened. Miraculously, I stayed upright after crossing the road, jumping a curb, and hitting the guardrail.

One of my favorite centuries is the Hotter N Hell Hundred in Wichita Falls. Last year, I rode there (165 miles) on Friday with my girlfriend and another cyclist, did the rally on Saturday (with the "lead pack") and rode back Sunday. The century ended up being the "rest day!"

In case it's not obvious, my focus in bicycling is on long distance events—century and longer rallies; multi-day tours of 100+ miles per day; and some endurance type races. I once did a seven day, 925-mile ride across Texas (El Paso to Orange). I had signed up just two weeks before the event, but with my mileage base there was no additional training necessary.

I ride as much as 18,600 miles a year and consume four or five thousand calories a day in summer, and about 3500 in winter. I'm 5'9" and weigh 140 lbs. Although it's obvious that

riding takes up most of my spare time, I do have a life! I hold a full-time job managing a department of 40 engineers at MCI, and I have a girlfriend who cycles. We don't ride the same speed, and an alternative is for her to get her ham license so we can keep in touch while riding.



Here's Larry taking a quick breather after climbing up Colorado's Vail Pass.

My training regimen is usually the same every year. During the winter I am able to get in about 18-20 miles before dark, three times a week. I also lift weights three times a week. Saturday and Sunday rides are usually 60 to 100 miles. As daylight increases, so does the mileage. Leaving work at 4:30 pm allows rides of 75-80+ miles in June and July. Weekend rides become centuries or other rides of about 100 miles.

I've been a serious cyclist for 10 years, and a ham for over 20. Since I spend so much time cycling, I'm rarely on the air now. I've never yet carried ham radio with me on the bike, but I really should. A few years ago, I rode up Mt. Evans, the highest paved road in Colorado (14,000+ feet). I wonder how many repeaters I could have keyed from up there, or how far I could have talked simplex!

—Larry Schwartz, WB3DBI

12 Los Alamitos Cir.

Wylie, TX 75098

larry.schwartz@mci.com

Our People

Are We Serious Cyclists?

As you know, the BMHA questionnaire asks you to tell us "how many miles you have ridden in one day?". A recent quick study shows that 347 BMHA members have responded to that question. Here are the totals:

Have ridden zero to 99 miles:	119....34%
" " 100 to 199 miles:	198....57%
" " 200 to 299 miles:	23....06%
" " 300 plus miles:	7....02%

As you can see, 65% of the BMHA members have pedaled 100 or more miles in a day, certainly qualifying us as a club of "serious cyclists". If you haven't filled out your questionnaire, do so! And send it in and be counted. —Ed.

NEW MEMBERS

We're pleased to add these names to our Membership List:

Thomas A Allen, N7GBJ, 4593 S Calderwood, Las Vegas NV 89103
Mini Bell, N1VOT, 140 Emerson Rd, Norway ME 04268
Steve Bell, N1XAV,
Keith Bobo, N0VNX, POB 486, Niwot CO 80544
Patrick Boland, KB4BUO, 601 Niblick Dr, Vienna VA 22180
Dave Clark, W8DO, 167 N Crooked Lake, Kalamazoo MI 49009
Chris Denny, KD6HTV, 717 S Sunnyside, Fresno CA 93727
Dale Pusmer, KA9MHF, POB 148, Brimfield IL 61517-0148
Richard A Hade, K9HSH, 654 E Peru St #2, Princeton IL 61356
Glynn Hamilton, KE4IWZ, 3126 Espana Ln, Thousand Oaks Ca 91362
Mark Kallum, KM5BJ, 4825 Red Bud Dr, Belden MS 38826
Darrell Knowles, KC7TEI, Rt 2, Box 2434K, Roosevelt UT 84066
Andy Kronk, N8WGI, 801 N Mildred, Dearborn MI 48128
Bob Page, 14 Plymouth Place, Wyomissing PA 19610
Karl Rifenbark, KB8VKB, 3331 Mahoney Dr, Traverse City MI 49686
Ron Royder, POB 1954, Baytown TX 77522
Carol Sowers, KP4EGU, 2580 Highland Dr SE, Conyers GA 30013
Don Sowers, KT4FH,
Chris Taylor, KC0ALT, 1446 Man Beh Blvd #A, Manhattan Beh CA 90266
A Tompkins, 1515 Jeff Davis, L/LS, #1506, Arlington VA 22202

*With traditional ham friendliness, make contact
with these new members, welcome them to BMHA,
and help them with any problems they might have.*

REMINDERS

Back Issues Still Available

You may purchase any of the twenty nine back issues of the BMHA NewsLetter for \$1.50 each, postpaid. For info on the contents of the various issues send a business-size SASE to: BMHA, POB 4009, Boulder CO 80306-4009, and ask for the Index of Back Issues. This service available to members only.

For Sale

Do you have bicycle-mobile-related radio equipment for sale? Send in a description and we'll run it. Limit of 20 words, plus your name, address, phone. For members only.

Your Bicycle Flies For Free!

As a member of BMHA you get free transport of your bicycle, when you fly on Northwest Airlines. You save \$90 on a roundtrip flight. For details call Wild World of Travel, Missoula MT, 1-800-735-7109. Mention that you're a network member of Adventure Cycling.

If you tell us your bike tour plans we'll publish them in the NewsLetter and help make it possible for you to meet fellow BMMHAers in person or on radio as you pedal along. Just send in your route and the dates.

When you write a plug for BMHA (and please do!) in your local club's newsletter, be sure to include this information:

"The annual dues is \$10. To receive a sample copy of the BMHA Newsletter and other bike-mobile info send an SASE to BMHA, Box 4009-RC, Boulder CO 80306." This will save our club a lot of trouble and expense. The info will be sent next day.

BMHA NEWSLETTER

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Mike Nickolaus, NF0N Bob Pulhuj, KE8ZJ

Chairman and Founder: Hartley Alley, NA0A

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We welcome articles, suggestions, letters, announcements, photos, artwork -- anything pertaining to bicycling while operating an amateur radio, or vice versa.

The BMHA is affiliated with Adventure Cycling Assoc., League of American Bicyclists (LAB), and Worldradio.

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ABOUT BMHA

For the information of our first-time readers

Bicycle Mobile Hams of America got its start when a 'Stray' in the June '89 QST magazine asked to "get in touch with hams who operate their radios while bicycle-mobile", signed by Hartley Alley, NA0A. Twenty five hams responded, filled out questionnaires, and received a summary of the collected data.

In April of '90 we had our first BMHA Forum at the Dayton HamVention. We played to a packed house, overflowed the room, and added 54 names to our mailing list. Our seven subsequent forums have drawn increasingly larger audiences, and now BMHA is firmly established as a 'regular' at this world-renowned event.

This is the thirty first issue of our quarterly newsletter, which has become the clearing house for the exchange of info and ideas for the hams who go on the air from their bicycles. Since the last issue of this newsletter we have added 20 new members. The total membership now stands at 442, with members in 43 states, and six countries. BMHA is affiliated with Adventure Cycling Association, the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), and Worldradio.

BMHA membership puts you in touch with a friendly and helpful group of bike-riding hams. You'll make contacts through our membership directory and E-mail address list, bi-weekly net on 20 meters, annual meeting and Forum at the Dayton HamVention and other regional meetings, and of course through the BMHA NewsLetter, which has articles on bike trips, antennas, other gear, operating tips, etc. Membership application blank on the next to last page.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Radio Operators' Training Session for the Hilly Hundred

(The Hilly Hundred is an annual two-day cycling event that covers 50 miles each day on a figure-eight course that starts and ends in Bloomington Indiana. 5,000 riders regularly take part in this October "fall foliage" event, which will celebrate it's 30th anniversary in 1998. -Ed.)

As co-director of SAG and Communications, I cover the following basic topics at our annual Hilly Hundred Ham volunteers training session. This session is held each year at the annual club meeting that precedes the event, so it's a couple weeks before the Hilly Hundred. In the hand-out I have prepared for the volunteers I cover the following topics.

1) Rest area and SAG set-up, and responsibilities: This overall view shows the radio operators how they fit in to the overall support of the event.

2) Important phone numbers: emergency numbers (911 & sheriff dispatch numbers) and the number of the phone at my communications table at the event headquarters.

3) Locations of the rest areas each day and their hours of operation. Also, where the stationary SAG at each site will be located. Also included are route maps with rest areas and various mileages noted, and directions on how to get to each rest area, avoiding driving on the bicycle route as much as possible.

4) Supplies each ham needs: notebook and pens to keep a log of communications and other information, food and beverage. Note: some rest areas have woods but no restroom facilities; I don't send any hams to those areas without their knowledge and consent.

5) Procedure:

a) I assign tactical callsigns, and discuss the need for them: so I know immediately the location of the topic or incident being reported. The need for a ham to explain his/her communication role to the SAG wagon driver assigned to their area—some of the hams are strictly communicators, and some of them are SAGwagon drivers who are also ham radio operators. I emphasize: The need to stick with their SAG's, and become indispensable to them; The need to sign in as soon as they're in position. The need for confidentiality over the radio is discussed, which leads into a discussion of the codes we will use to distinguish the seriousness of their messages. I chose red, white and blue, because those words form a common phrase and are used in that order. Code Red signals a non-medical emergency, Code White signals a medical emergency (requiring SAG or ambulance transport), and Code Blue signals a possible fatality.

b) The ham in charge of the Net Control Station discusses the technical aspects of the radio coverage of the event. He/she covers all the types of coverage that will take place, as well as repeater, antenna and frequency information.

6) I assign the hams to their positions for the event and give each a copy of Dave Gerbig's book* on being a radio operator at a bicycle event, and a Hilly Hundred Communications hat (for easy participant identification).

7) We have an open discussion to answer questions anyone might have.

My main concern is that each ham volunteer has the knowledge and tools to make him/her the best communications

support he/she can be. The more thoroughly I prepare them, the more secure they will feel in their positions. I want the ham volunteers to know that they are very valuable to the Hilly Hundred and to its participants, and I want them to return year after year to provide their special talents. Besides, they're a bunch of really neat people to work with, and I'd sure miss them if they decided this was too unorganized for them to bother with, or that they felt unappreciated.

—Barbara L. Anderson, N9XSS, co-Director
Hilly Hundred SAG and Communications
3603 Essex Ct.
Bloomington IN 47401 (812) 332-6028

(*The booklet *Radio Operator's Guidebook* by Dave Gerbig, WB9MZL, is available for \$2 postpaid. Send your check to BMHA, POB 4009, Boulder CO 80306-4009.)

WORTHY WEB SITES

URLS for European Bike Touring

Norman D. Ford (see p.7 of previous issue) of Kerrville, TX writes: Here are three more bicycle touring-related webpage URLs you might pass on to your newsletter readers:

Mike Bedard at <http://www.oclf.on.ca/mike/> an expert on touring France with day-by-day itineraries you can follow.

Deutsche Bahn Timetables at <http://bahn.hafas.de/> an absolutely fabulous program (click on "English"), that will route you by rail between any two cities in Europe giving complete timetables and which trains carry bikes.

http://www.sheldonbrown.com/france_cycling.html is another great website for France-bound bicyclists with hundreds of bike terms in French, and much much more."

My report on my Pyrenees-Dordogne 1997 bike tour is now on the Net at <<http://www.oclf.on.ca/Mike/norm97.html>> . This URL takes you right to it, no need to make any links.

Norman D. Ford Email: blodwen@ktc.com

Dear Fellow AOL/BMHA Members,

Did you know that there is a Bicycle Mobile Message Board on AOL? It's in the Radio Communications Forum. So far, it's response has been slow, but steady. I think if experts like BMHA members provide input, the message board may flourish. Plus it's a way for us to pass ideas to each other in a quicker fashion than the BMHA newsletter (but certainly not as a replacement). Check it out. If you like it, please participate in providing input. If not, perhaps it can be made better with input. Here's how to get there:

Go to keyword: HAM

* Select HAM RADIO

* Select MESSAGE BOARDS

* Select HAM AND PACKET RADIO

* Select BICYCLE MOBILE STATIONS

** YOU'RE THERE! **

73....Scott A. Farrell, KE4WMF E-mail: ke4wmf@aol.com

LETTERS

Bike-Mobes are Welcomed by Members

Hartley,

I have moved on to other things, though not by choice. My bike is crapped out and I'm no longer able to ride the bike. But I still welcome bicycle tourists here. I certainly know what it's like to be on the road. I've crossed the US continent twice, ridden the Baja Mexico peninsula, and lots of western states tours.

I already miss the days of bike tours, centuries and double centuries (I don't miss the triple centuries too much...), but I'm glad I rode them while I could. How many people to you know who will do a ride "next year"? Next year you might not be able to ride. Ya gotta do it now.

Cyclists who wish to visit us here should let us know ahead of time. Penni (KD6LNE) or I will talk you in on two meters.

73,

—Ed Powell, N6BPH,

2334 Holden Ct. Oceano CA 93445

102430.3640@compuserve.com 510-526-6067

(From a new member, this note in Feb 98)

Will welcome any cyclists into my home. If you start a hospitality service, count me in! Home phone 616-922-2622 work phone: 616-947-2010

—Karl Rifenbark, KB8VKB karl@gtii.com

3331 Mahoney Dr, Traverse City MI 49686-9187

(An attempt was made in '96 to start a BMHA Hospitality list. Maybe the timing was wrong—nobody responded. It's still a good idea. Karl, would you like to volunteer to help get one started? Please contact me at hartleyal@aol.com. —ED.)

Adventures on the Lakefront

Hartley and readers,

When I was a kid in Chicago in the 1970's, I used to run bicycle mobile on 2-m FM, mostly into the CFMC 146.76

and SARA 146.88 repeaters. I'd ride up and down the beachfront of Lake Michigan. What a blast!

I ran a half-wave vertical dipole. The lower leg of it served as a mount which went down to the rear wheel nut, bike-rack style, and the top leg was a whip. The coax went out at right angles, the HT was lashed to the bars in a spring-loaded compressional mount of my own manufacture. It got out great! Much better than a rubber duck antenna. HT was a Wilson HT, which I used to call "The Brick". Great six-channel radio.

You asked me if I had some other adventures on my bike. Nothing much additional to add to my story. I didn't ride to Nepal, rescue a crashing 747 or anything like that. I did like to ride to the beach though—in summer, to check out the bikini-clad girls; in winter, to look out over the bleak, cold, frozen icebergs of Lake Michigan. I was just a young kid without a car trying to get out of the house, and away from violin lessons.

It was the most fun I'd ever had in ham radio, too. Keep pedaling!

—Pete Wang KF5ND,

7711 Silent Star Ct., Houston, TX 77095

Canadian Seeks HF Info

Dear BMHA,

You probably receive many letters from enthusiastic hams. I just want to be another. I am a retired para-medic who happens to enjoy the hobby of radios. I now have one on my bike, but want more information about BMHA. I wish to purchase an HF rig for the bike. I wish you could forward me some newsletters that have articles about HF rigs and antennas for bike-mobile use. Enclosed is a money order for \$25, which I hope will cover my membership fee, along with the cost of sending the newsletters.

I have a new motto: Don't get Wide, get out and Ride! Yours in biking and amateur radio,

—Jerry Fielding, VA3EMS,

1382 Pelissier, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, N8X 1M5

(We sent him 14 back issues. Two members—Wayne Estes, W9AE, and Bil Paul, KD6JUI, who are much experienced in HF bike-mobile operation—sent him their recommendations and comments. —Ed.)

Membership Application

MemAPPL.wpa 8/17/97 lpc hnewmem lpc /E-mail hnewHAM /NONham hnew HQ's front /walc /env

BICYCLE MOBILE HAMS OF AMERICA

Box 4009, Boulder, CO 80306-4009

date _____

Individual \$10 _____ new member? _____ renewal? _____

(US or Canada)

Family \$15 _____ Foreign \$15 _____ Donation \$ _____

(limit: two persons)

Make check payable to BMHA, in US dollars or international money order.

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ License Class _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ @ _____

Age _____ Most miles bicycled in one day _____

BMHA's Official Logo

The next time you need to order new QSL cards, don't forget to include the BMHA logo in your design. Here's the official logo, as designed by Russ Dwarshuis, KB8U.

BICYCLE MOBILE



HAMS OF AMERICA

BICYCLE MOBILE



HAMS OF AMERICA

BMHA NEWSLETTER

Bicycle Mobile Hams of America
PO Box 4009
Boulder, CO 80306-4009

First Class Mail

COMMENTS

....I saw your ad in *Bicycle USA* and am interested in joining your organization. Enclosed find check for \$10. I used to work the 2-meter repeaters around LA and Southern Cal, but have been mostly "off the air" lately. Bike riding takes up about three days a week, and I find it interesting to combine the riding with ham radio. ---Jim Sully, KN6NQ, Huntington Beach, CA

....Enclosed is my BMHA renewal check. Thanks for publishing the letter from Norman Ford (see Jan. '98 issue) and the bio. I'd like to read more about him and his exploits. I'll check the bookstores to see which of his books are still in print. I wonder if he has ever written about his Merchant Marine radio operator experiences. Would be interesting. Thanks also for publishing the web sites you come across.

Winter bicycling here in Michigan is pretty dangerous. To keep the ol' knees in minimal condition I ride up the covered parking ramp at a local community college a couple of times per week. The ramp is seven levels and I get a little over half a mile of uphill riding and then carry the bike down 85 steps to start over. Looking toward spring.

---Dan Pope, N8ZP, Flint, MI

....I haven't been active for quite a while with the bicycle mobile. I'm installing a rig on my mountain bike now, though. I bought a Cherokee AH-100 AM/SSB CB handheld and converted it to 10-meters (a trivial mod, by the way.) Hope to

make some SSB QSOs now that the sunspots are returning and the band is opening up more often.

---Russ Dwarshuis, KB8U, Ann Arbor, MI

....This winter I'm keeping busy with work and keeping fit on the trainer and a new treadmill, I'm again the chairman of the ARRL MidWest/Dakota Convention---plenty busy with that. Still I was able to pedal 3600 miles last year.

---Mike Nickolaus, NF0N, South Sioux City, NE

....Just saw an article in CQ VHF Magazine (the Feb. 1998 issue) and thought it was a nice article to spark interest. I haven't yet done anything with combining biking with my HT...but am interested...this sounds like an weekend project that could grow.

---Glynn Hamilton, KE4IWZ, Thousand Oaks, CA

....I ALWAYS wear a helmet. A broken clavicle and three broken ribs last summer (while wearing a helmet) really drove home the need to always wear a helmet.

---Scott Farrell, KE4WMF, Buzzards Bay, MA

....(In answering the BMHA Questionnaire "Most exciting misfortune while bicycle-mobile?") As a bike-mobile volunteer I was leading the first runner through a half-marathon. He was Alberto Salazar, former holder of the world marathon record. And when my attention lapsed, he caught me!

---Chris Denny, KD6HTV, Fresno, CA